

REMARKS

1. INTRODUCTION

By way of the present amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 have been amended and claims 2, 9 and 15-20 have been cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 are currently pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

2. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102/ ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6-8, 11 and 13-20 as being anticipated by Gerstung (U.S. 3,258,832), and indicated that claims 2-5, 9, 10 and 12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By way of the present amendments, all of the currently pending independent claims 1, 5, 8 and 12, are now directed to subject matter that the Examiner indicated would be allowable, and accordingly it is submitted that claims 1, 5, 8 and 12 and the claims that depend therefrom are directed to patentable subject matter.

In particular, independent claim 1 now includes all the limitations of former claim 1 and claim 2. Formerly dependent claim 5, which previously depended directly from claim 1, has been rewritten as an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and former claim 5.

Independent claim 8 now includes all the limitations of former claim 8 and claim 9. Formerly dependent claim 12, which previously depended from claims 8 and 11, has been rewritten as an independent claim including all of the limitations of the base claim 8, intervening claim 11 and former claim 5.

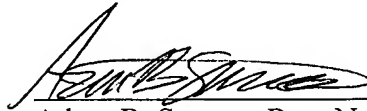
The claim dependencies in claims 3, 4 and 10 have been amended in view of the cancelled claims.

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3. CONCLUSION

For at least the above-cited reasons, all claims pending in the present application are now believed to be allowable. Early receipt of a Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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